

# Meeting #2 -- Agenda

**August 28, 2003** 

7:00 PM Welcome/Introduction

**7:15 PM** Trail System Policy Framework

Vision

Preliminary Goals and Policies

8:00 PM Potential Trail System Improvements

Trail Segments

Trailheads and Access

8:30 PM Preliminary Trail Design Criteria

9:00 PM Next Steps/Adjourn





## **Meeting Purpose**

- Preliminary Trail System Policy Framework
  - Basis for General Plan policy on trails
  - Broad vision for future trail system
  - Planning and management direction for Trails Master Plan
- Trail System Improvements
  - Range of potential projects included in General Plan
  - Specifics for each project to be defined in Trails Master Plan
- Trail Designation Criteria
  - Criteria included in General Plan
  - Designations for specific trail segments to be defined in Trails Master Plan





## **General Plan Update**

#### **Planning Process & Schedule**

- Project Initiation (*June '02*)
- Site Reconnaissance & Data Collection (June Aug. '02)
- Draft Resource Inventory -- Existing Conditions (Sept. Dec. '02)
   Public Workshop #1(November '02)
- Resource Summary/Statement of Park Purpose & Vision (Jan. '03)
- Develop Alternatives (Jan. Sept. '03)
   Public Workshop #2 (June '03)
- Preliminary General Plan/RMP (Dec. '03)
   Public Workshop #3 (January '04)
- Public Review Period (Feb. March '04)
- Commission Adoption of Plan Public Hearing (June '04)





#### **Vision**

- Manage as a finite recreational resource intended to accommodate the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the unit's natural setting.
- Manage to provide the broadest possible public benefit, accommodating all users, regardless of ability.
- Balance the demands of a diverse and constantly growing user population, while maintaining flexibility to respond to changes in recreational demand over time.
- Balance recreational demand for trails with protection of the unit's natural and cultural resources. Protection of natural and cultural resources will be a primary consideration.



#### **Vision**

- Trail system conceived as part of a larger, integrated regional system. Maximize the connections to and access from other local and regional trail systems to offer a range of routes and experiences.
- Enhance quality of the visitor experience, expand public access, and improve public safety.
- Give highest priority to improving and enhancing existing facilities and function prior to major expansions.
- Continue to pursue opportunities for acquisition and trail development as funding permits.





#### **Trail System Inventory and Database**

Goal: A comprehensive inventory and database that can assist in the effective management of the trail system.

- TS-1: Undertake a comprehensive survey of the trail system to include information such as: length and alignment of existing trails, character and condition of existing facilities, type and intensity of use, need for improvements, and potential new facilities.
- TS-2: Design a trail system database and procedures for maintaining accurate data. The database should include information such as: the identification of funding priorities, a record of reported accidents and complaints, areas in need of maintenance/repair, trails-related concessions (both in and adjacent to the unit), etc.



## **Trail System Inventory and Database**

- TS-3: Coordinate with trail providers in neighboring jurisdictions to share trail system data and incorporate relevant data (e.g., existing and proposed improvements) on adjoining systems into the unit's trail system database.
- TS-4: Compile and maintain trail system data regarding the number and type of trail users; the frequency of use; the number, type, and size of trails-related concessions both in and adjacent to the unit; the size and timing of special trail events; and other information that will assist in the planning, management, and development of the trail system.
- TS-5: Integrate periodic user survey results in the trail system database as a means of identifying user preferences and assessing recreational trends.



**Trail System Planning** 

Goal: A well-planned trail system with facilities that are properly located and designed to meet public needs, and that can be effectively managed and maintained with available resources.

TS-6: Work with local government jurisdictions during their development review processes to ensure that proposed development adjacent to the unit provides appropriate connections to unit and regional trails, will not prevent the development of planned trail system facilities, and will not adversely impact or constrain the public's use of the trail system.



## **Trail System Planning**

- TS-7: Coordinate trail system planning and development with the efforts of other local trail providers, such as Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties, City of Folsom, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Land Management, to maximize opportunities for an integrated regional trail network.
- TS-8 Consider the creation of a Trail Coordinator position within the Gold Fields District to oversee the planning and management of the unit's trail system.



Trail Advocacy, Collaboration, and Stewardship

- Goal: Cooperation and collaboration among trail providers, trail advocates, and resource groups to ensure trail system expansion in conjunction with resource protection.
- TS-9: Consider the creation of a regional trails council comprised of local, State, and federal trail providers in the area who would meet periodically to discuss trail planning and management and to foster coordination.
- TS-10: Consider the creation of a regional trail users advisory committee comprised of trail user groups who will meet regularly with State Parks staff to discuss trail management, including issues related to new facilities, maintenance, patrol and enforcement, and safety. Or, as an option, continue to participate in existing multi-jurisdictional trail groups.



Trail Advocacy, Collaboration, and Stewardship

TS-11: Promote volunteer participation in trail stewardship programs and support trail user groups and events that promote such stewardship.

Action: Sponsor and host National Trail Day events to celebrate trails and promote trail awareness.

National Trail Day is a signature event of the American Hiking Society.

Action: Establish an adopt-a-trail program for the unit to promote trail awareness and to encourage trail user groups, schools, neighborhood groups, businesses, families, and individuals to become involved in trail maintenance.



### **Trail Accessibility and Public Use**

- Goal: Trails that are easily and widely accessible to people of all abilities and supported by accurate information on trail locations and conditions.
- TS-12: To the degree feasible, provide barrier-free or fully accessible trails offering a variety of features and experiences, including access to natural and cultural resources.
- TS-13: Wherever feasible create continuous loop trails and/or trails that connect with other key features.
- TS-14: Expand opportunities in the trail system for people with disabilities by providing ADA compatible facilities wherever feasible.



### **Trail Accessibility and Public Use**

- TS-15: Ensure that trails are appropriately designated and that the permitted use is clearly identified at each formal access point and on trail literature.
- TS-16: Establish a unit-wide trails wayfinding system. Destination signage at trailheads could display information such as: trail name, allowed uses, key map, length of trail, facilities/services available, trail etiquette, trail closures, etc. Journey signage along trail segments could indicate trail splits and mergers, trail entrances and exits, hazards, and mileage.
- TS-17: Work with relevant county and city departments to improve the accessibility of the unit's trail system from trail systems outside the park.



### **Trail Accessibility and Public Use**

- TS-18: Prepare a map of the trail system and make it available to the general public at park entrances, by mail, and on the park website. Each trail should be described and allowed uses identified so that visitors can identify trails suited to their needs.
- TS-19: Educate the public regarding the potential impact of trails and trail use on the environment and on neighboring landowners.
  - Action: Work with trail user groups to identify information to be included in destination and journey signage as part of the unit-wide trails wayfinding system.
  - Action: Develop criteria for the seasonal closure of trails where necessary to protect trail facilities or sensitive natural resources, and establish a protocol for implementing.



#### **Multi-use Trails**

- Goal: Expanded opportunities for public trail use through the appropriate expansion of multi-use trails within the unit while continuing to maintain and develop limited use trails that offer a range of visitor experiences.
- TS-20: Establish criteria for designating trail segments as appropriate for multiple types of trail use. Such criteria should include factors such as user accessibility and safety, type and level of use, potential for resource impacts, visitor experience, historic use, patrol and enforcement, etc.
- TS-21: Involve trail user groups by soliciting their input on decisions regarding trail designation and design.



**Multi-use Trails** 

TS-22: Develop an educational program to inform the public of proper user etiquette on trails within the unit.

Action: Designate permitted trail use for all trail segments in the Trails Master Plan.

Action: Establish a volunteer multi-user trail patrol program to promote trail awareness, enhance trail safety and security, and educate trail users on trail etiquette. This action should be coordinated with trail stewardship program proposed in TS-11.



**Multi-use Trails** 

Action: Prepare a trail etiquette brochure for trail users that can be distributed at trailheads and entrance kiosks, as well as being mailed to trail user groups and posted on the Folsom Lake SRA web site.

Action: Where appropriate introduce signs at trailheads and other critical trail junctions that inform or remind trail users of proper trail etiquette.

Action: Work with user groups to sponsor and host special trail events in the unit that increase awareness and educate users on the importance of trail safety, etiquette, and the concerns of various trail users.



**Private Property Owners** 

Goal: Compatible use of public trails adjacent to private property.

TS-23: Involve private property owners in planning and management efforts related to trails in urban areas of the unit or where trail alignments are in close proximity to the unit boundary.

TS-24: Encourage and support an open and ongoing dialogue among private property owners, trail user groups, and unit managers regarding appropriate use of the public trail system and protection of private property rights.





### **Private Property Owners**

- TS-25: Work with private landowners to explore opportunities for improving access to the unit's trail system by creating new links and filling gaps in the existing trail system.
- TS-26: Maintain data on reported conflicts between private property owners and trails users in the unit as part of the trail system database, and use this information to monitor trends and inform trail system planning and management.
- TS-27: Eliminate existing unauthorized access points and trail connections into the unit from adjacent private property, and monitor the unit's urban boundaries to prevent establishment of any new unauthorized access points.



#### **Funding**

Goal: Adequate and stable funding for the planning, development, and management of the trail system.

TS-28: Ensure that designated trail projects are identified as part of annual capital and operations and maintenance budgets for the park.

TS-29: Include funding requests for trail improvements in the budgets for all improvement projects in areas traversed by or adjacent to a designated trail corridor.

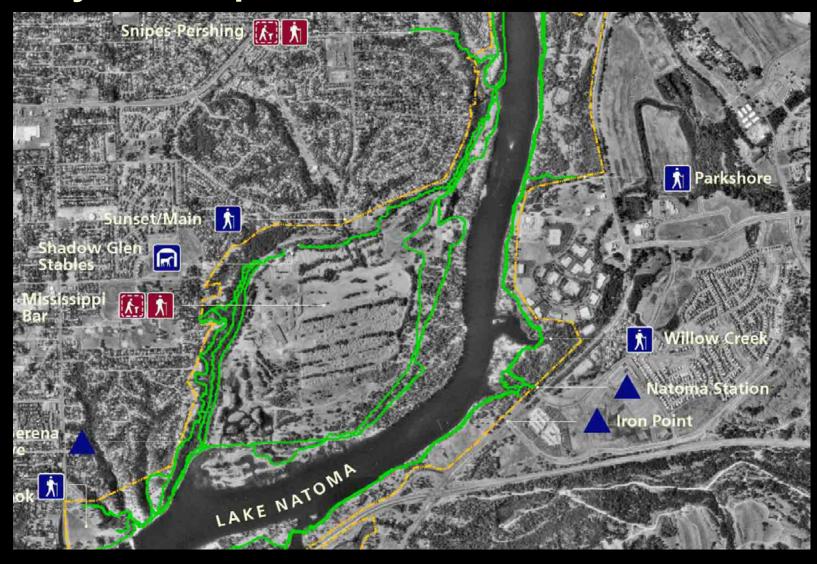
TS-30: Explore the opportunities to leverage available State funds for trail projects through various State, federal and private matching grant programs.



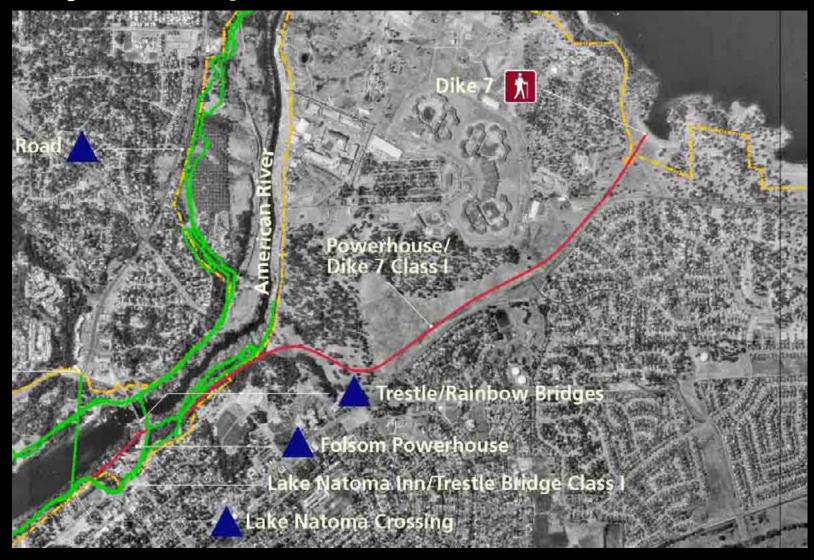
#### **Funding**

- TS-31: Develop a corporate partnership program whereby local businesses or other civic groups can sponsor trail projects, including new trails, trail improvements, and trail maintenance. Such a program could leverage available funds for trail projects through financial assistance, donated materials, and volunteer labor.
- TS-32: Work with other agencies and jurisdictions responsible for providing trails in neighboring areas (e.g., Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties, City of Folsom, BLM, etc.) to jointly fund and/or manage certain facilities, such as trailheads and trail links that connect the unit's trail system with outside systems and serve the local population.

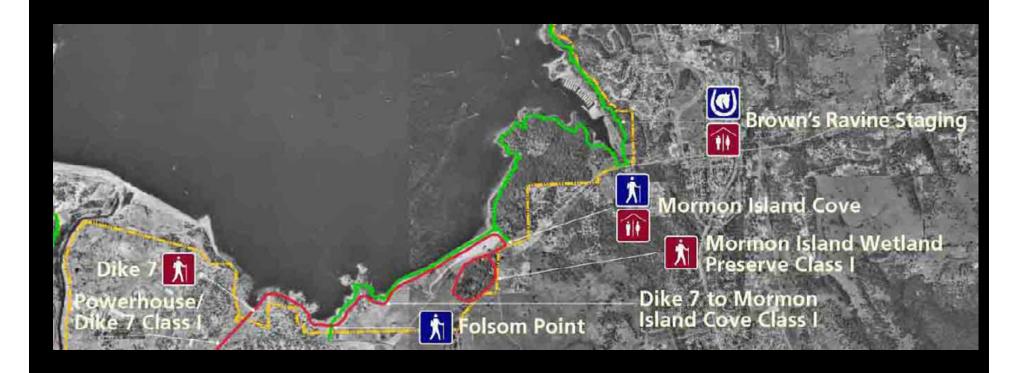




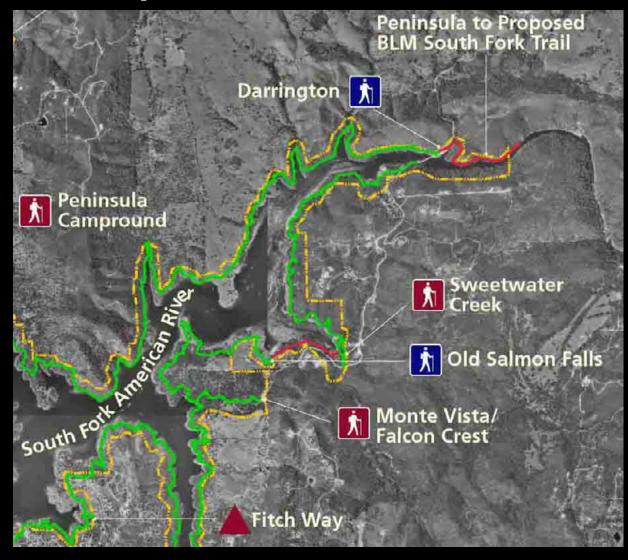




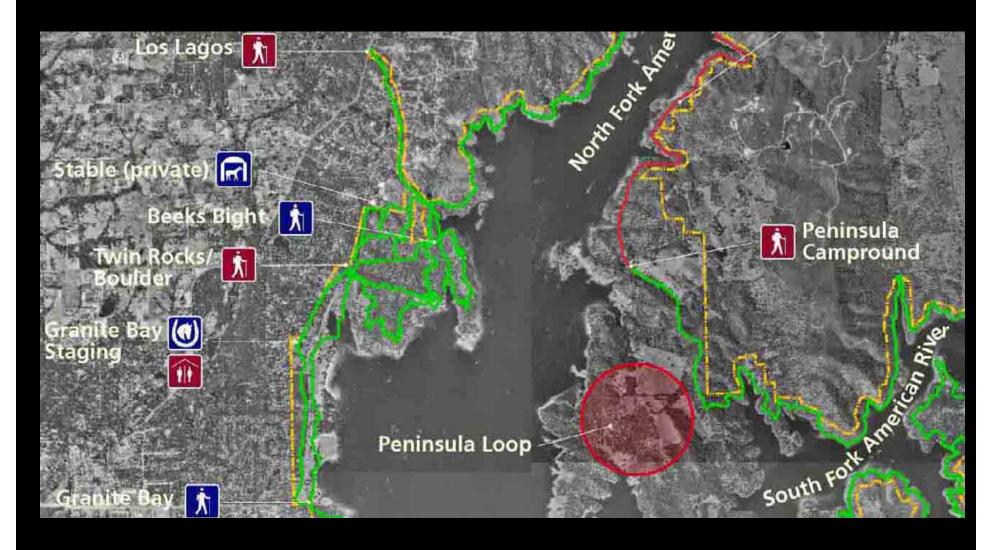






















**Multi-use Corridor** 

#### **Multi-use Corridor**

A corridor designed, developed, and managed to accommodate multiple trails for different uses (e.g., pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrians).

Uses can be accommodated on a combination of Shared Use, Limited Use, and Hiking trails that are more or less parallel, but not adjacent to each other.



#### **Trail Ratings**

#### **Trail Ratings:**

Accessible: Meet universal design standards.

Suitable for visitors with limited mobility.

<u>Easy</u>: Fairly flat and level. Suitable for families with

small children.

Moderate: Moderately strenuous with sections that may

be uneven and steep.

Challenging: Strenuous with sections that may be uneven,

narrow, steep and/or slippery. Suitable for

more experienced users.



#### **Multi-use Corridor**

Location: Can occur in urban, rural and natural areas

Access/Connectivity: High number of access points and

connections to destinations and other systems

Use Character: Will vary with individual trails depending on

type and use

• Terrain: Likely to include range from flat to steep and

uneven, but <u>must</u> be of sufficient width to

accommodate multiple, non-adjacent trails

Degree of Difficulty: To accommodate the range of trail uses will

include range from Accessible to Challenging

Sensitive Resources: May include some sensitive resource areas,

but not extensive

Design Character: Will range from urban to natural depending on

trail type and use



**Shared Use Trail** 

#### **Shared Use Trail:**

A trail designed, developed, and managed for all types of users (e.g., pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrians).

Use is accommodated either on one Shared Use trail, or a combination of parallel Limited Use trails.



#### **Urban Shared Use Trail**

• Location: In or adjacent to urban areas.

Access/Connectivity: High number of access points and connections

to destinations and other systems

Use Character: Moderate to high volumes. Generally need to

accommodate commute/road cycling in

addition to pedestrians and equestrians. Travel

speeds range from slow to fast.

• Terrain: Generally flat, with gradual grades, long sight lines

• Sensitive Resources: Generally not compatible

Degree of Difficulty: Typically ranges from Accessible to Easy

• Design Character: Urban. Ideally, a double-track paved tread for non-

motorized wheeled vehicles with parallel natural

tread for pedestrian and equestrian use.



#### **Rural Shared Use Trail**

Location: More rural areas, but can be near urban areas

Access/Connectivity: Moderate to high number of access points and

connections to destinations and other systems

Use Character: Moderate volumes. Use dictated by character of

terrain and resources. Slow to moderate travel

speeds.

• Terrain: Ranges from flat to relatively steep and uneven

Degree of Difficulty: Typically range from Accessible to Moderate

• Sensitive Resources: Generally not compatible

Design Character: Urban/Rural. Ideally, a double track with unpaved,

natural tread, or alternately a wide single track

with regular turn-outs.



#### **Limited Use Trails**

#### **Limited Use Trails**

A trail designed, developed, and managed for more than one, but not all types of users (e.g., pedestrian/mountain biking, pedestrian/equestrian, pedestrian/road biking).

Use is limited due to factors such as presence of sensitive resources, unique suitability for a particular use, or desire for particular visitor experience.

Use is typically accommodated on a single trail.



## Limited Use Trails - Hiking/Mountain Biking

Location: Dictated primarily by topography, but generally

more rural/natural areas

• Access/Connectivity: Typically not a large number of access points

• Use Character: Low to intermediate volumes, primarily mountain

bikes. Travel speeds range from slow to moderate.

• Terrain: Generally hilly, with uneven and steep sections

Degree of Difficulty: Typically range from Moderate to Challenging

• Sensitive Resources: Generally not compatible or desirable

Design Character: Rural/Natural. A moderately-wide, single-track trail

with natural tread.



## **Limited Use Trails - Hiking/Horseback Riding**

• Location: Rural to natural areas preferable

Access/Connectivity: Typically not a large number of access points

• Use Character: Low to intermediate volumes, balance of

pedestrians and equestrians. Slow travel

speeds.

• Terrain: Relatively flat to hilly

Degree of Difficulty: Typically range from Accessible to Moderate

• Sensitive Resources: Generally compatible, with proximity desirable

Design Character: Rural/Natural. A moderately-wide, single-track

trail with natural tread.





**Hiking Trails** 

## **Hiking Trails**

A trail designed, developed, and managed solely for pedestrian use.

Use is limited due to factors such as presence of sensitive resources, unique suitability for a particular use, or desire for particular visitor experience.

Use is accommodated on a single trail.



#### **Hiking Trails**

• Location: Primarily natural areas with distinctive resources

or sensitivities

• Access/Connectivity: Can be numerous connections, depending on

setting

Use Character: Typically low volumes. Travel speeds are slow.

• Terrain: Ranges from flat to steep and uneven

Degree of Difficulty: Ranges from Easy to Challenging

• Sensitive Resources: Generally compatible, and highly desirable

• Design Character: Natural. A relatively narrow, single track with

natural tread, generally non-constructed (i.e.,

evolved from use).



